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REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia/Yugoslavia
SUBJECT Czechoslovak-Yugoslav Trade Relations

DATE DISTR. 30 Sept 53

25X1

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIREDNO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE
ACQUIRED BY SOURCESUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Until 1948 Yugoslavia was an important trade partner and supplier of raw materials for other Communist countries. Both Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia suffered greatly from the break in commercial relations between Yugoslavia and the Eastern Bloc states. Trade negotiations for 1949 were opened but never completed, and all official trade stopped in 1949. Yugoslavia's most important exports to Czechoslovakia were antimony, lead and copper, lead and copper ores, zinc, iron ores, chromium ore, pyrite, heavy spar, bauxite, drugs, and medicinal herbs, and Yugoslavia purchased both capital and consumer goods from Czechoslovakia; especially important were purchases of coke and coal. All transportation between these two countries was via the Danube River and therefore cheap. Many finished or semifinished machines and various industrial equipment destined for Yugoslavia remained in Czechoslovak factories without any possibility of other use after the trade relations between these two countries were broken off. About 35,000,000 crowns belonging to Chemapol were blocked in Yugoslavia.
2. As Yugoslavia had at that time almost no commercial connections with the West, it tried, soon after the official break with the Soviet orbit countries, to open unofficial trade with Czechoslovakia, offering raw materials, first for cash purchases in dollars and later on a barter basis in exchange for Czechoslovak coke.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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